

Please have a word with a Welcomer before Mass if you require a **gluten free wafer**.

Today is the **First Sunday of Advent** and the start of the new Church year when we begin year B in our 3-year cycle of readings. This year the story of our Lord will be followed mainly in St Mark's Gospel. At the beginning of the Mass we will light the 1<sup>st</sup> candle on the Advent ring and sing our **Advent Ring Song** (see over)

Bishop Martin has declared this new year the **Year of Prayer**, which is launched today across the Diocese with a Prayer Card, on which there is a prayer for the morning and for the evening, which it is hoped we will all use in our prayers. You should have received your copy of this card on your way in to church today. As we pray these prayers daily over the course of this year, it is hoped that it will deepen and strengthen the connection between our time of personal prayer and the time we spend with others in corporate prayer.

**Everybody is welcome** to join us for coffee/tea after the 10am Mass, in the church hall next door. Our **Fairtrade stall** will be open so stock up today!

**Bishop Martin** will be our Celebrant and Preacher at the 10am Mass next **Sun (10<sup>th</sup>)**. It would be marvellous to have a full church so please make every effort to come.

There is a plate at the back of Church for **welcomed donations** towards the cost of flowers to decorate the church for Christmas. Thank you in advance for your contribution. *Denise Styles*

Our **Christmas card to the parish** – these are now ready for collection at the **back of the church**. They are bundled alphabetically under distributors' names. **Please help** in delivering these as soon as possible.

**St Mary's Tree Festival 2017 starts this Thurs (7<sup>th</sup>) & runs until Sun 10<sup>th</sup>**. Opening times: *See diary overleaf*. Come along to enjoy the trees, unique atmosphere & refreshments. We still require stewards to man church over these times - please sign-up **today** or see Karen W.

**School Christmas Fair:** Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Dec from 1-4pm. It is important that we support this event. Speak with Karen B (410718) if you can help represent the church family by helping to man a stall for a while over the afternoon.

**Sun 17<sup>th</sup> Dec** – join St Mary's Ramblers for an **historic walk around our town**. Meet outside The Bookshop (High St) at 2.30pm followed by mulled wine and mince pies in The Ship. Please call 07810 785311 or email Hilary on Hilarycsaunders@me.com so we have an idea of numbers. All welcome!

We encourage you not to send **personal cards** to other members of the church who you see regularly. Instead please add your name to one of the tags and then attach to the **Christmas greetings tree**, both of which will be in church from 7<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Tonight, Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec, at 6pm: "Tree of Light" Service** at St John's Church, Felbridge. For further details please see poster on the notice board in the hall.

This Sat (9<sup>th</sup>) at 2.30pm at Trinity Methodist Church: **'Carols and Cakes' in aid of RNLI**. Tickets £6 available from Trinity Welcome Café, on 324196 or on the door.

**Charity Quiz Night in aid of EG Foodbank:** This Sat (9<sup>th</sup>) 7-10pm at the Jubilee Community Centre. Tickets (£5 each) available in advance from Tony Cox or Lucy Tribe - email: [admin@eastgrinstead.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:admin@eastgrinstead.foodbank.org.uk) or text or call: 07739 641869.

**Our Intercessions** are on the inside of this bulletin.

## Welcome to Saint Mary's, East Grinstead Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

<b>Today's Services:</b>		
<b>8 am Mass</b>		
<b>10 am THE PARISH MASS</b>		
	<i>Hymns: NEH 16, 466, 286, 4 (Advent Ring song – see over)</i>	
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> December		
Feria of Advent (St John of Damascus, Monk, Teacher of the Faith, c.749)		
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December		
Feria of Advent		
	<i>9.45 am Whole School Collective Worship</i>	
<b>7.30 pm Mass</b>		<i>8 pm PCC Meeting in the Vestry</i>
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December		
Feria of Advent (St Nicholas, Bp of Myra, c.326)		
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December ( <b>Tree Festival begins</b> )		
Feria of Advent (St Ambrose, Bp of Milan, Teacher, 397)		
<b>9.30 am Mass</b>		<i>Church open</i>
	<i>10.15 am Coffee &amp; Craft Group in Hall</i>	
	<b>2 – 8 pm Tree Festival</b>	
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December		
<b>Conception of Our Lady</b>		
	<i>9 am Morning Prayer in church</i>	
	<b>2 - 8 pm Tree Festival</b>	
	<i>5.30 pm Evening Prayer in church</i>	
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> December		
Feria of Advent		
	<b>2 - 6 pm Tree Festival</b>	
	<i>7 pm Quiz Night at the JCC in aid of EG Foodbank</i>	
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December</b>		
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>		
<b>8 am Mass</b>		
<b>10 am THE PARISH MASS</b>		
	<b>Celebrant and Preacher:</b>	
	<b>Bishop Martin</b>	
	<i>Readings: (Year B) Isa 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pet 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8</i>	
	<b>2 – 4 pm Tree Festival</b>	
	<b>4 pm A Special Act of Worship</b>	
<b>PARISH DIRECTORY</b>		
Vicar	Vacancy	Parish Office 323439
Associate Vicar	Fr David Hadfield	823105
Hon. Asst. Priest	Fr John Gayford	842752
Churchwardens	David Garrett	0797379 5626
	Karen Rose	324980
Hall Bookings	Sandy Archer	317724
Giving & Gift Aid	Su O'Neill	317008
Choir	Geoff Hempstead	313112
Altar Servers	James Stewart	301575
Kidz Club Leader	Caroline McCague	458812
St Mary's School		323858
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Tina Allen	321933
Weekly Bulletin	newsletter@stmaryeg.co.uk	323439
	<a href="http://www.stmaryeastgrinstead.co.uk">www.stmaryeastgrinstead.co.uk</a>	
	Follow us on Twitter @StMaryEG	